

Science communication as an important aspect of promoting research to the public

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Science communication is becoming an increasingly important aspect in today's sciences. It is evident that it is necessary for scientists not only to sit in their ivory towers and conduct research, but also to communicate this research interactively with other scientists and to involve the interested public in new scientific developments.

Here it is not only important to bring research closer to adults and young people, but the involvement in current research should take place as early as possible, i.e. already in childhood. Especially in the field of natural sciences, there are more and more gaps, because this subject area is no longer covered in school alone. Therefore, it is important that e.g. universities and museums act as teaching-learning places for pupils and offer activities such as the children's university or open days, or approach the target group in small workshops and guided tours.

The Museum Mineralogia Munich, respectively the Mineralogical State Collection Munich (MSM) is also a teaching-learning place, which is organized in the association of LeLa (Lernort Labor - Bundesverband der Schülerlabore) and Muc-Labs (Verein der Münchner Schülerlabore).

Our goal is to bring geosciences closer to adults, young people and children (Fig.1.). This is done through specific workshops. In these workshops the attendees learn something about minerals and crystals, about their structure, their chemical composition and their thermobarometric conditions under which they were formed. There are guided tours and workshops on the respective topics in the MSM, including

specific special exhibitions.

Student interns can also spend a whole week getting acquainted with the research work in our working group, including equipment such as the Raman spectroscope, the Keyence microscope and the scanning electron microscope. In this way, the young people can immerse themselves further and further into research and scientific work and learn things that are not offered in school at the moment. In addition, they can deepen this knowledge in specialized studies and thus take a liking to the natural sciences in order to possibly study the subject area themselves later on.

In addition to the purely scientific work, we also have a network with art. For example, crystal structures or photographs of mineral and rock thin sections can interact as artistic objects. Furthermore, we involve our students in the public relations interactions, which helps them a lot to communicate science in an easy way.



Fig.1. First look into the microscope, an amazing little world